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OFFICE OF POLICY, OVERSIGHT, AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Brian Ross
Assistant Commissioner

Donnie De Saw
Administrative Analyst 4

Adriana Gittens
Senior Clerk Typist

Noreen Kroslin
Executive Assistant

OFFICE OF POLICY AND REGULATORY DEVELOPMENT

Joseph D. Pargola
Assistant Director

Alexandra Campos
Program Specialist 1 Social/Human
Services

Geri Dietrich
Administrative Analyst 4

Debra Hayes
Program Specialist 3 Social/Human
Services

Patricia Lane
Head Clerk

Lemonte Sanders
Standards and Procedures Technician 4

Laurin Stahl
Administrative Analyst 4

Shia Tekhna
Standards and Procedures
Technician 3

What's Emergent?

Kinship Placements:

On July 2, 2021, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation to facilitate the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) strategic priority of increasing kinship placements. The legislation mandates that both DCF and the courts first seek out safe and appropriate kinship caregivers, including extended family members or "fictive" kin, i.e. family friends or trusted adults who have a preexisting relationship with the child, when an out-of-home placement is necessary. Additionally, the law made changes to the Termination of Parental Rights standard and the requirements for Kinship Legal Guardianship (KLG).

This law became effective immediately and impacted a significant amount of Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) policies and forms. For example, DCF's stance on KLG vs. Adoption is now that they are "**equally viable**." Forms utilized to empower caregivers to make informed decisions about what permanency goal they prefer have been changed as well. The KLG Assessment and other documents submitted to the court have also been updated to be consistent with the law.

Please take the time to review these changes, and if you have questions, please talk with your supervisor.

Below is a list of forms, form instructions, and policies impacted by this law. Please note that several forms will need to be re-translated into Spanish. They will be forthcoming.

- CP&P [Form 4-8](#), **Kinship Legal Guardianship (KLG) Subsidy Agreement**
- CP&P [Form 4-18](#) & Form Instructions, **Fact Sheet – Differences Between Adoption and KLG, Acknowledgement Receipt**

- CP&P [Form 4-25](#) & Form Instructions, **Eligibility Criteria for CP&P KLG Subsidy**

- CP&P [Form 5-52](#) & Form Instructions, **Relative/Family Friend Resource Assessment Letter**
- CP&P [Form 5-58](#) & Form Instructions, **Thirty-Day Notification to Relative of Child's Placement Out of Home**
- [CPP-III-B-1-100](#), **Case Planning**
- [CPP-III-B-1-200](#), **Enhanced Review Process**
- [CPP-III-B-2-100](#), **Permanency Planning**
- [CPP-III-B-2-200](#), **Reasonable Efforts**
- [CPP-III-B-2-300](#), **Concurrent Permanency Planning**
- [CPP-III-B-4-400](#), **Case Goals**
- [CPP-III-C-4-100](#), **Locating a Missing Child/Family and Searching**
- [CPP-IV-A-11-100](#), **KLG v. Adoption**
- [CPP-IV-B-2-100](#), **Resource Home Selection**
- [CPP-IV-B-2-200](#), **Efforts to Place Siblings Together**
- [CPP-IV-B-2-500](#), **Assessing Kin to Provide Care for a Child in Need of Out-Of-Home Placement (Relative/Family Friend Rule Out Criteria)**
- [CPP-IV-C-1-100](#), **Adoption Generally**
- [CPP-IV-C-1-200](#), **Adoption Goals**
- [CPP-IV-C-1-500](#), **Termination of Parental Rights**
- [CPP-IV-C-1-800](#), **Finalization of Adoption**
- [CPP-IV-D-1-100](#), **Overview of Services to Children Placed with Relatives by the Division**
- [CPP-IV-D-2-100](#), **KLG Generally**
- [CPP-IV-D-2-200](#), **KLG Subsidy Program**
- [CPP-IV-D-2-300](#), **KLG Assessment and KLG Court Order**
- [CPP-IV-D-2-400](#), **Successor Guardian**

Click [here](#) to view *Policy Updates*

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Policy and Regulatory Development at policy@dcf.nj.gov or 609-888-7030.